

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A contents storage system comprising including: a home server apparatus for recording a plurality of contents in a contents recording unit therein; and an information supply apparatus for supplying the home server apparatus with section information that shows indicating how each of the contents are each is divided into sections,

wherein the information supply apparatus stores, in a storage unit, a plurality of pieces of section information corresponding to the plurality of contents, comprising:

wherein the information supply apparatus includes:

a storage unit operable to store therein a plurality of pieces of section information corresponding to a plurality of contents; and

a receiving unit operable to receive, from the home server apparatus, (i) identification information for identifying, as recorded content, content recorded in the contents recording unit of the home server apparatus, and (ii) criterion information that indicates a level of performance of the home server apparatus in relation to generating section information;

a judging unit operable to judge that (i) section information should be supplied to the home server apparatus when the level of performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information is lower than a level of performance in relation to generating section information stored in the storage unit, and (ii) section information should not be supplied, from the information supply apparatus, to the home server apparatus when the level of performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information is equal to or higher than the level of performance in relation to generating the section information stored in the storage unit;

and

a supply unit operable to, when the judging unit judges that section information should be supplied to the home server apparatus, read first section information, which corresponds to the-a recorded content identified by the identification information recorded in the home server apparatus, from the storage unit and supply the home server apparatus with the first section information, and

wherein the home server apparatus comprising: includes:

 a requesting unit operable to request the information supply apparatus to supply the first section information corresponding to the recorded content, by sending, to the information supply apparatus, (i) the identification information for identifying the recorded content, and (ii) the criterion information that indicates the level of performance of the home server apparatus;

 a contents recording unit operable to acquire and record the content;

 a receiving unit operable to receive the first section information, from the information supply apparatus, when the first section information is supplied from the information supply apparatus;

 a generating unit operable to generate second section information corresponding to the recorded content, the second section information being generated when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus; and

 a section information recording unit operable to record therein (i) the first section information corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is supplied from the information supply apparatus, and (ii) the second section information corresponding to

the recorded content, when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus either the first section information or the second section information, as being in correspondence with the recorded content.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A home server apparatus for receiving, from an information supply apparatus operable to supply section information indicating how contents are each divided into sections, a piece of section information that corresponds to content that is acquired by and recorded in a contents recording unit of the home server apparatus section information, which shows how contents are each divided into sections, from an information supply apparatus, the home server apparatus comprising:

a requesting unit operable to request the information supply apparatus to supply first section information corresponding to the recorded content by sending, to the information supply apparatus, (i) identification information for identifying the recorded content, and (ii) criterion information that indicates a level of performance of the home server apparatus in relation to generating section information;

a contents recording unit operable to acquire and record a content;

a receiving unit operable to receive the first section information, from the information supply apparatus, when the first section information is supplied, which corresponds to the recorded content, from the information supply apparatus as a result of the information supply apparatus judging that the first section information cannot be generated at the level of performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information;

a generating unit operable to generate second section information corresponding to the

recorded content, the second section information being generated when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus; and

a section information recording unit operable to record therin-either (i) the first section information-or the second section information, as being in correspondence with corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is supplied from the information supply apparatus, and (ii) the second section information corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 2, wherein wherein each of the contents include original is theoretically divided into meaningful sections that are each cohesive in substance, and

wherein start times of each section~~sections~~ indicated by the first section information are more close closer to start times of the original sections than to start times of each section-
meaningful sections of the recorded content than sections indicated by the second section information-in length.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 3, wherein wherein the first section information is generated based on amounts of a plurality of types of characteristics detected through analysis of images and audio information contained in the recorded content, and

wherein the generating unit generates the second section information based on amounts of fewer-less types of characteristics than the plurality of types of characteristics from-on which

the generation of the first section information is based.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 4, wherein wherein the generating unit generates the second section information based on amounts of audio detected through analysis of audio information contained in the recorded content.

Claims 6-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 6, claim 2, wherein wherein each piece of section information identifies indicates each section of each content by a start time of each section, and wherein the generating unit generates the second section information by determining the start time of each section of the recorded content through analysis of the recorded content.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising: a time correcting unit operable to correct the start time of each section indicated by the first section information by:

receiving, from the information supply apparatus, (i) a portion of audio data of a-the recorded content identified by the identification information and (ii) a reproduction time for the portion of audio data, the reproduction time having been measured by a same clock, measuring that has measured start times indicated by the first section information;

calculating a difference between (iii) a reproduction time for the portion of audio data of

the recorded content and (iv) the reproduction time received from the information supply apparatus; and

correcting the start times indicated by the first section information by the calculated difference.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising:

a selecting unit operable to select one-of sections section of the recorded content indicated by a piece of section information that has been recorded in the section information recording unit in correspondence with the recorded content; and

a reproducing unit operable to reproduce the recorded content from a start time of the selected section.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 11, wherein wherein the section information indicates, for each section of the recorded content, a characteristic image display time being a time at which an image, which is used to determine what each section of the recorded content concerns, is displayed,

wherein the home server apparatus further comprises -comprising:
a presentation unit operable to display, as a list, images that are to be displayed at characteristic image display times indicated by the section information, wherein and wherein the selecting unit selects a section of the recorded content that corresponds to an image that a user selects from the displayed list of images.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 6, wherein claim 2,

the information supply apparatus stores a plurality of pieces of section information for each content,

wherein the requesting unit-sub-unit further sends selection criterion information, which is used by the information supply apparatus to select one piece-a piece of section information that corresponds to one content, to the information supply apparatus, and

wherein the receiving unit-sub-unit receives, from the information supply apparatus, a piece of section information that was selected based on the selection criterion information, from the information supply apparatus.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 13, wherein

the information supply apparatus stores a plurality of pieces of section information for each content, the plurality of pieces of section information respectively corresponding to a plurality of broadcasting areas, and

the selection criterion information indicates a broadcasting area to which the home server apparatus belongs, and thereby corresponds to one of the plurality of pieces of section information that corresponds to the broadcasting area, where the plurality of pieces of section information respectively correspond to a plurality of broadcasting areas.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 13, wherein claim 2,

wherein the requesting by the requesting unit-sub-unit is inhibited while the contents recording unit is recording a content, and the requesting is executed after the contents recording

unit records a-finishes recording the content,

wherein the generating unit generates third section information while the contents recording unit is recording records a-the content, the third section information corresponding corresponds to sections of the currently recorded content that have already been recorded by the contents recording unit, and

wherein the section information recording unit records therinc the third section information corresponding to as being in correspondence with the currently recorded content being recorded, if the contents recording unit is in the middle of currently recording the content, and records therein the first section information corresponding to as being in correspondence with the content if the first section information is supplied after the content is recorded.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 6 claim 2 further comprising:

a communication judging unit operable to judge whether a communication with the information supply apparatus is possible, wherein

wherein, if the communication judging unit judges that a communication with the information supply apparatus is not possible, then (i) the requesting by the requesting unit sub-unit is inhibited, (ii) the generating unit generates the second section information, and (iii) the section information recording unit records therein the second section information corresponding to as being in correspondence with the recorded content.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 6 claim 2 further

comprising:

a request receiving unit operable to receive, from another home server apparatus, (i) identification information for identifying a predetermined content stored in the said another home server apparatus, and (ii) criterion information corresponding to the another home server apparatus to be used for judging whether a piece of section information for the predetermined content can be supplied;

a judging unit operable to judge, based on the criterion information corresponding to the another home server apparatus, whether to supply the said another home server apparatus with the a piece of section information for corresponding to the predetermined content; and

a supply unit operable to supply the said another home server apparatus with the piece of section information for corresponding to the predetermined content if (i) the judging unit judges to supply the another home server apparatus with the piece of section information positively and, (ii) the piece of section information for corresponding to the predetermined content is stored in the section information recording unit, wherein

wherein if (i) the judging unit judges to supply the another home server apparatus with the piece of section information positively and (ii) the piece of section information for corresponding to the predetermined content is not stored in the section information recording unit, then the generating unit generates the piece of section information for the predetermined content, and the supply unit supplies the said the another home server apparatus with the piece of section information for corresponding to the predetermined content.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The home server apparatus of Claim 17, wherein

wherein the criterion information corresponding to the another home server apparatus indicates a level of performance of said the another home server apparatus in relation to generating section information, and

wherein the judging unit judges not to supply the another home server apparatus with the piece of section information negatively if the level of performance of the said another home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information is equal to or higher than-a the level of performance of the home server apparatus, and judges to supply the another home server apparatus with the piece of section information positively if the level of performance of said the another home server apparatus is lower than the level of performance of the home server apparatus.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) An information supply apparatus for supplying a home server apparatus with section information indicating that shows how contents are each divided into sections, the information supply apparatus comprising:

a storage unit operable to store therein a plurality of pieces of section information corresponding to a plurality of contents;

a receiving unit operable to receive, from the home server apparatus, (i) identification information for identifying a predetermined content stored in the home server apparatus, and (ii) criterion information that indicates a level of performance of the home server apparatus in relation to generating section information; and

a judging unit operable to judge that (i) a piece of section information corresponding to the predetermined content should be supplied to the home server apparatus when the level of

performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information is lower than a level of performance in relation to generating section information stored in a storage unit, and

(ii) the piece of section information corresponding to the predetermined content should not be supplied to the home server apparatus when the level of performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information is equal to or higher than the level of performance in relation to generating the section information stored in the storage unit; and

a supply unit operable to, when the judging unit judges that (i) the piece of section information corresponding to the predetermined content should be supplied and (ii) the if a piece of section information corresponding to the predetermined content identified by the received identification information is stored in the storage unit, read the piece of section information from the storage unit and supply the home server apparatus with the read piece of section information read from the storage unit.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The information supply apparatus of Claim 19, wherein wherein the content is distributed by television broadcasting,
wherein the identification information indicates (i) a channel that is a distribution source of the content and (ii) a broadcast time of the content, and
wherein the supply unit reads, from the storage unit, a piece of section information that

corresponds to a content identified by the channel and the broadcast time indicated by the identification information, and supplies the home server apparatus with the ~~read~~-piece of section information that corresponds to the content identified by the channel and the broadcast time.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit for a home server apparatus including a storage unit and that receives, from an information supply apparatus, section information indicating which shows how contents are each divided into sections, from an information supply apparatus, the home server apparatus including a storage unit, the integrated circuit comprising:

a recording unit operable to record a content into the storage unit;

a requesting unit operable to request the information supply apparatus to supply first section information corresponding to the recorded content by sending, to the information supply apparatus, (i) identification information for identifying the recorded content, and (ii) criterion information that indicates a level of performance of the home server apparatus in relation to generating section information;

a receiving unit operable to receive the first section information, from the information supply apparatus, when the first section information is supplied, which corresponds to the recorded content, from the information supply apparatus as a result of the information supply apparatus judging that the first section information cannot be generated at the level of performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information;

a generating unit operable to generate second section information corresponding to the recorded content, the second section information being generated when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus; and

a section information recording unit operable to record therin-either (i) the first section information corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is supplied from the information supply apparatus, and/or (ii) the second section information corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is not supplied form the information supply apparatus in the storage unit, as being in correspondence with the recorded content.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium having a program recorded thereon, the program for causing a computer to execute a process of recording, into a storage apparatus, contents and section information indicating that shows how each of the contents are is each divided into sections, into a storage apparatus, the program causing a computer to execute a method comprising:

a recording step for recording a content into the storage apparatus;
requesting the information supply apparatus to supply first section information corresponding to the recorded content by sending, to the information supply apparatus, (i) identification information for identifying the recorded content, and (ii) criterion information that indicates a level of performance of the home server apparatus in relation to generating section information;

a receiving step for receiving the first section information, which corresponds to the recorded content, from the an information supply apparatus, when the first section information is supplied from the information supply apparatus as a result of the information supply apparatus judging that the first section information cannot be generated at the level of performance of the home server apparatus indicated by the criterion information for supplying the section

information;

a generating step for generating second section information corresponding to the recorded content, the second section information being generated when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus; and

a section information recording step for recording, into the storage apparatus, either (i) the first section information corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is supplied from the information supply apparatus, and/or (ii) the second section information corresponding to the recorded content, when the first section information is not supplied from the information supply apparatus into the storage apparatus, as being in correspondence with the recorded content.